

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 ISO-00 OIC-02 ACDA-12 AGRE-00
AID-05 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CG-00 CIAE-00 COME-00
DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 EPA-04 SOE-02
DOE-11 FMC-02 TRSE-00 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 IO-14
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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2273
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: XV, AS
SUBJ: ANTARCTIC TREATY SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

REF: 77 STATE 294965

1. IN VIEW OF CHRISTMAS/SUMMER VACATION PERIOD, EMBOFF
SET FORTH SUGGESTIONS IN REFTEL IN LETTER TO R. SMITH,
FIRST ASSISTANT SECRETARY, LEGAL AND TREATIES DIVISION,
DFA. EMBASSY HAS NOW RECEIVED FOLLOWING REPLY:

"THE SCHEDULE, IN GENERAL, SEEMS A GOOD ONE. WE AGREE WITH
YOUR COMMENTS ABOUT THE TIMING OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS
MEETING AND WOULD EXPECT NO PROBLEMS WITH EITHER THE
SPECIFIED DATES YOU MENTIONED OR OTHER DATES WITHIN THE
TIME FRAME YOU SUGGESTED.

"THE ONLY COMMENT WE HAVE TO MAKE IS TO DO WITH THE
TIMING OF THE MEETING OF LEGAL/POLITICAL EXPERTS. I
WONDER IF THERE WOULD NOT BE SOME ADVANTAGE IN SEPARATING
THIS MEETING FROM THE PREPARATORY MEETING AND HOLDING IT
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EARLIER. THIS WOULD GIVE TIME FOR THE CONSULATATIVE
PARTIES TO ASSESS THE RESULTS OF THE MEETING SO THAT PROPOSALS
MIGHT BE PUT FORWARD FOR CONSIDERATION AT THE PREPARATORY
MEETING. IN THIS
CASE A MID-DECEMBER MEETING MIGHT BE
PREFERABLE. IT IS HARD TO ANTICIPATE THE TIMING OF THE
DECISIVE MEETING ON MARINE LIVING RESOURCES, BUT I CANNOT

SEE IT TAKING PLACE BEFORE ABOUT AUGUST. IT MAY WELL BE
SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER, IN WHICH CASE DECEMBER WOULD BE THE
EARLIEST PRACTICABLE DATE FOR THE LEGAL/POLITICAL EXPERTS
MEETING.

"ALL THIS, OF COURSE, IS PREMISED ON THE FACT THAT THE XTH
ATCM WILL WANT TO CARRY THE MINERAL RESOURCES ISSUE FURTHER.
IF IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE RESOURCES ISSUES ARE BEST DEALT
WITH AT SEPARATE MEETINGS, THUS LEAVING THE CONSULTATIVE
MEETING TO CONCENTRATE ON OTHER ITEMS, THEN THE OVERLAPPING
OR RUNNING TOGETHER OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING AND
LEGAL/POLITICAL EXPERTS MEETING MAY NOT BE A BAD THING.
AS YOU KNOW THE IXTH ATCM GAVE ONLY SCANT CONSIDERATION TO
SOME AGENDA ITEMS BECAUSE OF THE HEAVY AGENDA AND THE TIME
DEVOTED TO RESOURCES ISSUES. DELEGATIONS FELT THAT THIS
WAS REGRETTABLE AND SEEMED TO FAVOUR THE TREATMENT OF RESOURCES
AT SEPARATE SPECIALISED MEETINGS. WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO GO
ALONG WITH THIS APPROACH AND THEREFORE BE HAPPY TO SEE THE
PREPARATORY MEETING PAVE THE WAY FOR THE XTH ATCM TO TAKE UP
THE MANY ITEMS (APART FROM RESOURCES) WHICH IT WILL
UNDOUBTEDLY BE FACED WITH. IF THIS IS THE THINKING OF
THE STATE DEPARTMENT WE WOULD NOT WANT TO PUSH FOR AN EARLIER
LEGAL/POLITICAL EXPERTS MEETING.

"ON THE SCIENTIFIC EXPERTS MEETING, OUR VIEWS COINCIDE WITH
THOSE YOU EXPRESSED IN YOUR SECOND LAST PARAGRAPH.
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ENDQTE.
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